

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091  
**Part of the Chilterns Pastoral Area, under the patronage of Venerable Mary Ward**



1st March 2020

FIRST SUNDAY  
OF LENT

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>First Sunday in Lent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Thanksgiving
Tuesday Lent Feria	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Caselton-Clark)
Wednesday Lent Feria	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday Lent Feria	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Smith)
Friday Lent Feria CAFOD LENT FAST DAY	9.00am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Peter & Margaret Byrne)
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	<b>5.00pm*</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Saturday SS Perpetua & Felicity	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Searle)
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
<b>SUNDAY 8th March Second Sunday in Lent</b>	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish



## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During the 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. Parents are encouraged to join their children.

**Coronavirus:** the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued guidance for Parish Worship. As the disease is mostly mild, we are all encouraged to maintain good hygiene as the best way to protect us from the spread for Coronavirus. We ask anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from the physical sign of peace, taking communion from the Chalice and advise that they should receive the host on the hand only. (We should be doing this anyway, every 'flu season.)

**Lent Prayer booklets** (*My Day by Day and Walk With Me*) are for sale in the porch.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in  
The Guild Room after both of  
our Sunday Masses.  
*All are welcome!*

**Infant Baptism and Marriage.** By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

## Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

When Jesus refused Satan's temptations, he was looking past himself and the momentary awards giving in would bring. He did this through faith and hope. In *Spe salvi*, the encyclical on hope, Pope Benedict XVI writes of the necessity of seeing past oneself. He states, "[Reason] becomes human only . . . if it looks beyond itself. Otherwise, man's situation, in view of the imbalance between his material capacity and the lack of judgment in his heart, becomes a threat for him and for creation"(23). Paul writes in Romans that through the obedience of Jesus, humankind was saved. In the Second Vatican Council document *Guadium et spes* (the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), the Council Fathers state the belief that Christ offers humanity the light and strength for "his supreme destiny." That is in contrast, the documents states, to those who rely on earthly powers. "There are still others whose hopes are set on a genuine and total emancipation of humankind through human effort alone and look forward to some future earthly paradise where all the desires of their hearts will be fulfilled" (10).

The reading from Genesis tells how God blew into man "the breath of life." Pope John XXIII, in his encyclical *Pacem in terres*, states that within humanity is a reflection of God. The pope states, "But the world's Creator has stamped man's inmost being with an order revealed to man by his conscience. . . . Men 'show the work of the law written in their hearts. Their conscience bears witness to them.' And how could it be otherwise? All created being reflects the infinite wisdom of God. It reflects it all the more clearly, the higher it stands in the scale of perfection" (50).

**The National Novena to St Joseph** will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at **St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead** and at **Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool**. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer.

Please write to Novena Director, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com) (There are a few copies of the Novena booklet near the statue of St Joseph, please take one).

This Lent, **CAFOD's Family Fast Day** is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. Your donations go to highly-trained, highly skilled local experts around the world who save and support the health of the world's poorest families. Sister Consilia is one of these people. She is a nun in an out-of-town health centre in Zimbabwe. Sister Consilia is a trained pharmacist who saves lives each and every day. Without support like yours, her brilliant work just couldn't continue as there wouldn't be enough funding to support it. But we urgently need your help to fund more local experts like Sister Consilia to reach out to even more people who need treatment, care and love. On **Friday 6 March**, will you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help people like Sister Consilia to continue her life-saving work – helping the health of the world's poorest people?

Through CAFOD's global Church family – one of the largest aid networks in the world – your support can reach to the ends of the earth.

**Please collect your family Fast Day envelope from Church this week and give whatever you can.**

## Scripture Insights

Throughout the season of Lent, the First Readings tell us the story of Israel, which includes some of the main figures from the Old Testament: Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and Ezekiel. Through Israel's sacred story we understand better the story of Jesus as told by the Apostle Paul and the Evangelists Matthew and John.

In his Letter to the Romans, Paul contrasts Adam with Jesus. As a Pharisee trained in the interpretation of the law, Paul was aware of today's First Reading from Genesis, the story of the creation of Adam and the fall of Adam and Eve. Paul saw in Adam and Eve's fall the tragic consequences of sin and death for all people. But Paul also saw in Jesus' death and Resurrection the universal gift of life and acquittal of sin for all people. Paul made sense of the Cross by contrasting Jesus' *obedience* with Adam's *disobedience*.

Like Paul, Matthew draws parallels between events in the life of Jesus and events in the Old Testament. In the Gospel reading, Matthew tells of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. With the temporal setting of forty days and forty nights and the spatial setting of the wilderness, Matthew's Jewish community likely heard this temptation story in relation to forty-year wilderness experience of Moses and the Israelites told in the Books of Exodus and Numbers. But whereas ancient Israel failed in the wilderness, Jesus was victorious. As both Paul and Matthew teach, we are connected to our ancestors in faith by both sin and death. Each of us is disobedient to God, and each of us has wilderness experiences on our journey with God. The Good News is that Jesus has the power to overcome sin and death.

### Liturgy and Life

(1) How does pride influence your decisions? (2) Where in your life, do you want to ask God for mercy? (3) Satan tempts Jesus with power. What is your response to power that is given to you?

**Frank Pace** and **Joe Tavernier** will represent our parish at the **Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect David Oakley** as the thirteenth Bishop of Northampton on **Thursday 19 March at 11.00am at the Cathedral in Northampton**. Pray for God's blessing for Bishop Peter as he continues his ministry, and for our bishop-elect, Canon David Oakley.

The origins of **World Day of Prayer 2020** date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century in USA and Canada, when women from different Christian denominations started organising days of prayer for missionary work. Now 170 countries participate. Every year the focus is on a different country and the service is written by the women of that country and then translated into over 60 different languages and 100 dialects. In the Amersham area, the service will be held on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 11am in King's Church, Raans Road, Amersham, HP6 6LX**. It will be followed by tea and cakes and everyone is welcome. **We are praying with the people of Zimbabwe this year.**

## Money Matters

**Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £261.91**

*Thank you for your generosity*

If you would like to support the parish through Offertory Envelopes or directly from your bank, do speak to Fr Andy.

**The March 2020 edition of The Vine**

*The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now available. It's free of charge!*

**Are you new to the parish?**

*If so, you are very welcome! Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.*